

**Cover Summary of Proposed Administrative Rules/Regulation  
Arkansas Department of Health**

DIVISION Health Facilities Services  
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**SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE:** Rules and Regulations for Critical Access  
Hospitals in Arkansas

We are proposing changes in the following areas:

- (1) Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (“QA/PI”);
- (2) Committees;
- (3) Libraries;
- (4) Discharge Planning and Consent;
- (5) Patient Grievances;
- (6) Medications;
- (7) Restraints;
- (8) Laboratory;
- (9) Central Sterilization and Supply;
- (10) Emergency Services;
- (11) Miscellaneous; and
- (12) Physical Facilities/Life Safety Code.

In addition, the rules contain various non-substantive changes in nomenclature, grammar and numbering. A strike-through copy is attached.

**1. Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (QA/PI)**

added two new items to the QA/PI requirements: (a) identify and reduce medical errors and adverse patient events; and (b) approved abbreviations. Changed the term “Quality Improvement (‘QI’)” to “Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (‘QA/PI’),” reflecting current industry terminology.

**2. Committees**

Reduced regulatory requirements for non-clinical committees where feasible. Where clinical committees are still required, de-specified membership requirements.

**3. Library**

Changed library requirements to reflect current medium.

**4. Discharge Planning and Consent**

Eliminated general discharge planning and consent for treatment requirements.

## **5. Patient Grievances**

Added requirement for prompt resolution of patient grievances.

## **6. Medications**

Added medication errors and adverse drug reactions to QAPI process.

## **7. Restraints**

Added language to reflect new Medicare requirements.

## **8. Laboratory**

(a) Transfusion Services: (1) added requirements for on-hand blood supplies; and (2) added to the requirements for transfusion reaction investigations.

Infection Control: added requirements for monitoring resistant strains of bacteria.

CLIA: (a) deleted provisions redundant to CLIA requirements; and (b) added requirement for valid CLIA certification.

## **9. Central Sterilization and Supply**

Added language to accept event-related indefinite dating of sterile packs.

## **10. Emergency Services**

Clarified language for medical screening exam in the Emergency Department (EMTALA).

## **11. Miscellaneous**

Eliminated terms, such as “Division of” in reference to Health Facility Services; removed requirement that type of thermometer be specified; remove redundancy that single use equipment shall not be reused; and changed citations from “Acts” to corresponding sections in the Arkansas Code.

## **12. Physical Facilities/Life Safety Code**

A comprehensive revision of the physical facility/life safety code requirements is proposed, based on 2001 AIA Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospital and Health Care Related Facilities and the 2000 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. Following is a section by section review of the proposed changes; please note, however, that the section numbers correspond to the Hospital Rules; the numbers will change here .

### **Section – Physical Environment**

Removed “State Of Good Repair” References

Clarified Hot Water Temperature Recording Requirements (weekly)

Eliminated Mandatory Representation on Safety Committee  
Clarified Safety Committee Functions  
Removed Requirement For Posted Evacuation Plans  
Removed Requirements For “No Smoking” Signs In Central Areas  
Clarified Requirements For Fire Alarm Testing (Refers To NFPA 72)

### **Section – Physical Facilities**

Eliminated Definitions  
Clarified types of occupancy and construction projects, and specifies for each type  
Specified applicable publications and codes and guidance on interpretation  
Provided for equivalencies and phase-ins

### **Section – Patient Accommodations**

Deleted Requirement For Central Bathing Facilities  
Deleted Requirement for AIIR Anteroom  
Added Requirement for Additional Lavatory (Other Than The One In The Toilet) In Semi-Private Rooms For New Construction (2001 AIA Requires In Private and Semi-Private Rooms)  
Added Requirement For Permanent Visual Mechanism To Monitor Pressure Status In AIIR

### **Section – Critical Care**

Increased ICU Room Size From 150 SF To 200 SF  
Increased NICU Patient Care Space From 100 SF to 120 SF  
Clarified That A Modular Toilet/Sink Is Acceptable In CCU AIIR In Lieu Of A “Toilet Room”  
Deleted Shower Requirement In CCU AIIR

### **Section – Nursery Units**

Adopted AIA Language  
Established Specific Requirements For Newborn, Continuing Care, And Pediatric Nurseries (square footage, charting station, connecting access)

### **Section – Pediatric And Adolescent Unit**

Moved Nursery Requirements To Section 50

### **Section – Psychiatric Nursing Unit**

Adopted AIA Language  
Deleted Security/Safety Requirements Not Found In AIA  
Added Requirement For Patient Laundry  
Changed Seclusion Room Requirement From 1 Per 36 Beds to 1 Per 24 Beds

### **Section – Surgical Facilities**

Moved Endoscopy From Outpatient Care Facilities To Section 53  
Added Requirement For Supervisor’s Office

Added Requirement For Sufficient Storage Space Not Less Than 50 SF Per Operating Room Or 150 SF, Whichever Is Greater  
Deleted Minimum Floor Area Requirement For Medication Room  
Changed Pre-Op and PACU Requirements To Match AIA  
Added Requirements For Phase II Recovery Where Outpatient Surgeries Are Performed In The Surgery Suite

#### **Section – Obstetrical Facilities**

Reorganized To Match AIA  
Added Minimal Equipment Floor Area Requirements Of 10 SF Per Post-Partum Room and 20 SF Per LDR Or LDRP  
Post-Partum Rooms Should Be Private  
Added Requirement For Central Bathing Facilities If Showers Not Provided In Post-Partum Rooms  
Added Minimal Floor Area Requirements For Infant Resuscitation Area In C-Section/Delivery Rooms  
Clarified That C-Section/Delivery Support Areas Can Be Shared With Surgery  
Clarified That 200 SF Per LDR Or LDRP Is Acceptable In Renovations If 250 SF Requirement Cannot Be Met

#### **Section – Emergency Room**

Clarified That ER Entrance Must Provide Shelter For Transporting Patient From Ambulance To Facility  
Added Requirement For 2 Patient Toilets If More Than 8 Treatment Areas  
Added Requirements For Security Station, Secured Holding, AIIR, And Decontamination

#### **Section – Imaging Suite**

Deleted Minimum Size For Angiography Room  
Added Requirement For Dedicated Equipment Room For Cath Lab  
Added Requirements For Hands-Free Controls In Cath Lab Scrub Facilities

#### **Section – Nuclear Medicine**

Clarified Requirements For Radio-Pharmaceutical Preparation  
Added PET Scan Minimum Floor Area Requirements:  
300 SF For Scanner  
225 SF For Cyclotron  
250 SF For Hot Lab  
250 SF For Cold Lab  
80 SF For Blood Lab  
2 Stretchers For Patient Holding

#### **Section – Mobile, Transportable, And Relocatable Units**

Clarified That Fire Alarm Connection To Central System Is Not Required For Mobile Units  
Electrical Requirements (Matching AIA)

### **Section - Laboratory**

Added Reference To CLIA and Section 19

Deleted Requirements Suitably Addressed By CLIA

Clarified That Separate Locker And Toilet Facilities Are Not Required For Male And Female Staff

### **Section – Rehabilitation Therapy**

Clerical Changes Only

Handwashing Facility Changed To Handwashing Station

Narrative Program Changed To Function Program

### **Section - Morgue And Necropsy**

Deleted Requirements For Clothing Change Area

### **Section - Pharmacy**

Clerical Changes Only

Refers To Section 16

### **Section - Dietary**

Added Requirement For 4 Days Storage Of Supplies

Increased Height Of Lowest Shelf From 6” To 12”

Added Requirement For Separate Storage Room For Non-Food Items Such As Cleaning Supplies

### **Section – Health Information Unit**

Clarified Security And Protection Requirements For Medical Records

One Hour Fire Resistive Rating

Sprinkler System

Security System

Smoke Detection System

Protected From Water, Dust, And Vermin

### **Section – Linen Services**

Adopted AIA

Clarified Requirements for Off-Site Linen Processing

### **Section – Cleaning Carts, Employee Facilities, and Environmental Closets**

Changed Title To Include Employee Facilities

Added Requirement For Separate Lockers, Lounge, And Toilet Facilities For Employees

### **Section – Engineering Service**

Clarified That Boilers, Mechanical Equipment, And Electrical Equipment Must Be Installed In Ventilated Rooms (With Some Exceptions)

Clarified That The Engineer’s Office With Drawings And Records Shall Be A Separate And Distinct Space

### **Section – Waste Processing Services**

Added Requirement For Nuclear Waste Disposal

### **Section – Details And Finishes**

Moved On-Site Medical Records Storage Requirements To Section 65, Paragraph E.

Deleted Ban on Fireplaces

### **Section – Construction Including Fire Resistive Requirements**

Clarified That NFPA 101 Governs In The Event Of A Conflict With AFPC

Clarified That Life Safety Requirements Found Only In AFPC Are Not Mandatory

### **Section - Mechanical**

Clarified That Interior Duct Linings Are Not Allowed Except In Air Terminals And Sound Attenuators With Special Coverings

Retained Dual Fuel Requirement For Boilers (Dual Fuel Dropped By AIA)

Deleted 25 Degrees F Exception For Redundant Space Heating Equipment

Clarified That Relative Humidities In Table 3 Must Be Maintained

Clarified that AIIR Exhaust Cannot Be Connected To Exhaust Air Energy Recovery Devices That Permit Cross Contamination

### **Section - Mechanical**

Clarified That Low Returns Are Not Required For LDR/LDRP Rooms

Clarified That Each OR Must Have Individual Temperature Control

Clarified That OR HVAC Systems Cannot Be Shutdown (Positive Pressure At All Times)

Clarified That Low Returns Are Required For All Rooms Used For Invasive Procedures And In Rooms Where Anesthesia Gases Are Used

Deleted Ban On Direct Gas Fired Equipment

Changed Requirement for Filter Manometers From 90% and Greater to 75% and Greater

Eliminated 15' Minimum Distance For Humidifiers Upstream Of Final Filters

Deleted Requirement For Dedicated Exhaust Fans For Laboratory Hoods

### **Section - Plumbing**

Deleted Requirement For Metal Piping Only

Clarified Requirements For Flushing Floor Drains In Cystoscopy

Deleted Requirement For Level 1 Medical Gas And Vacuum Systems (Defers To NFPA 99)

### **Section - Electrical**

Deleted Requirement For Lens Covers On Down Directed Incandescent Light Fixtures

Clarified That Patient Care-Related Telephone And Data System Must Be Powered From The Essential Electrical System

Deleted Requirement for Receptacles in Corridors to be on Emergency Power

### **Section – Hyperbaric Suite**

New Section  
Matches AIA

### **Section – Freestanding ASC**

Electrical Changes Only

Requires Compliance With Section 74 – Mechanical, Section 75 – Plumbing, and Section 76 – Electrical With Few Exceptions (8 Hours On-Site Fuel Instead of 24 Hours)

### **Section – Outpatient Care Facilities**

Added Requirement That Hemodialysis Water Supply Cannot Interfere With Handwashing

Added Requirements For Special Purpose Exam Rooms (Eye, Ear, Etc.) And Observation Rooms For Isolation Of Disturbed Patients

Clarified That AIIR May Be Required Based On Risk Assessment

Increased Door Width For Patient Use From 2'-10" To 3'

Clarified That All Staff Only Corridors Can Be 44" Wide (Formerly 5')

Deleted Ban On Fireplaces

Deleted Requirement To Furr In Casework To Ceiling

Deleted 1 Hour Fire Separation Requirement For Medical Records Storage

Moved Endoscopy To Section 53

Clarified That Stand-By Fuel Is Not Required For Space And Water Heating In Large Outpatient Clinics

### **Table – Filter Efficiencies**

Corrected Filter Beds From 3 to 2

Added Note That 90% Filters Do Not Apply To Small Outpatient Clinics Or Outpatient Clinics That Do Not Perform Invasive Procedures

Added Reminder To Consider Additional Pre-Filters For Filters With Efficiencies Higher Than 75%

### **Table – Sound Transmission Limitations**

Expanded Table To Cover Several Patient Care Areas That Might Adjoin Public Spaces  
Established Separate Requirements For New Construction And Existing Construction

### **Table – Temperature And Relative Humidity**

Added Requirements For NICU, Trauma Rooms, And Procedure Rooms

Changed Sterile Storage Design Temperature From 68 - 73 Degrees To 75 degrees

Added Note That Humidification Systems Serving Anesthetizing Locations Shall Be Designed In Accordance With NFPA 99

### **Table – Ventilation, Medical Gas And Air Flow Requirements**

Significantly Changed

Moved Medical Gas Requirements To Table 11

Deleted Requirements For All Outdoor Air Operating Room Systems

Added Requirements For ER Waiting, Triage, Radiology Waiting, and Procedure Rooms

Changed Requirement For Air Movement In Recovery From Positive To Neutral  
Allows Reduction In LDR/LDRP ACH To 4 If Supplemental Heating Or Cooling Is  
Provided  
Revised Requirements to Match AIA  
Revised Notes to Match AIA  
Changed Requirement For Air Movement In Toilets From Neutral To Negative  
Added Requirements For ETO Sterilizer Room  
Added Minimum DP Of 0.01 Inches In AIIR, Protective Environment, and Bronchoscopy

**Table – Final Occupancy Inspection Check List**

Added Requirement For Shop Drawings For Standpipe/Sprinkler Systems  
Table 11 – Medical Gases  
New Table  
Increased Requirement For Oxygen And Vacuum In Critical Care Rooms From 2 to 3  
Outlets  
Differentiated Between Newborn Nursery And Pediatric Nursery Requirements  
Added Requirements for ER Seclusion Room  
Deleted Requirement For Medical Air Outlets In OR Rooms  
Added Requirements For Anesthesia Workroom

**Table – Medical Gases**

Added Requirement For 1 Medical Air Outlet In Labor Room  
Added Requirements For Triage Area, ER Exam/Treatment Rooms, Cast Room, And  
Cardiac Cath Lab  
Autopsy Room Now Requires 1 Vacuum And 1 Med Gas Outlet Per Work Station